

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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P 290915Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2439

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 1775

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ MILI, SN, VS

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF VNAF C-130'S IN SINGAPORE

REFS: (A) STATE 097380; (B) SINGAPORE 1717

1. I HAVE INFORMED ACTING PRIME MINISTER GOH OF OUR
LEGAL POSITION CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE C-130'S AS SET
FORTH REF A. SENIOR MINDEF OFFICIAL TAY SEOW HUAH INFORMALLY
ADVISED DCM GOS WOULD PROBABLY TURN OVER IN NEXT DAY OR TWO
TO USG THE C-130 WHICH BROUGHT THE 56 REFUGEES TO SINGAPORE
SINCE GOS HAD PROMISED THE PLANE WOULD BE RETURNED AS SOON
AS THE REFUGEES LEFT. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT WITH RESPECT
TO THE REMAINING FIVE C-130'S BEING RECONDITIONED AT LOCKHEED
AIRCRAFT SERVICE (LASS) GOS WOULD HAVE TO STUDY OUR LEGAL POSITION
VERY CAREFULLY. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT
ANTICIPATE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO GOS
THAT WE SEE NO LEGAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE C-130 WHICH
BROUGHT IN THE REFUGEES AND THE REMAINING FIVE AT LASS.

2. IN VIEW OF RAPIDLY CHANGING SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND
POSSIBILITY PRO-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OVER IN NEXT
FEW DAYS, RECOMMEND I BE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE FORMAL CLAIM OF
OWNERSHIP AND REPOSSESS ALL SIX AIRCRAFT SOONEST. IF GOS CON-
CURS, DAO AND LASS ARE PREPARED TO OBLITERATE VNAF MARKINGS
ON AIRCRAFT AND REPLACE THEM WITH USG MARKINGS. ONCE MARKINGS
ARE CHANGED DAO WILL ARRANGE THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS FOR AIR
CREWS TO FLY TO SINGAPORE AND REMOVE THE C-130'S AS SOON AS THEY
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ARE IN PROPER CONDITION TO FLY.

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Message Attributes

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